(SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) During the period April-November, 1992 marine products export was US $ 382.28 million, being 3.3% of the country's exports during this period (Source : DGCI&S). The target for 1993-94 has yet to be fixed.

The following strategies are being adopted to increase the export earnings from marine products :—

(i) stepping up export production by development of capture fishery;

(ii) stepping up production by culture fisheries;

(a) by increasing per ha. yield from shrimp farms;

(b) bringing more area under production of shrimp by culture; and

(c) by developing production of other exportable items.

(iii) induction of new technology and value addition;

(iv) modernisation of processing facilities, quality upgradation and reduction in waste; and

(v) aggressive market promotion measures.

Performance of Exports

3850. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that our exports would be able to keep up the 9 per cent growth rate, in view of recessions in buying countries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : As per the current trend, growth in exports in 1992-93 is likely to be less than 9% over those in the previous year.

Fraud in Import of Dal

3851. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain Syndicates of Bombay, Pune and Jalgaon imported huge quantities of "VATCHES" from Australia and passed it off for Masoor Dal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the circumstances under which such an import was allowed;

(d) whether the commodity was imported as Australian Masoor without any duty with export stipulation, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what was the quantity imported and the price per tonne offered therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) When the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 was announced on 31st March, 1992, import of Pulses was freely allowed. However, on receiving a report from the Food and Drug Administration, Government of Maharashtra that under the liberalised Policy, import of toxic pulses may take place, a Notification was issued on 18-1-93 prohibiting the import of toxic pulses.

The customs authorities have been requested to verify if any import of toxic pulses has been effected.

Clearance of Import Licence for Purchase of Aircraft by Punjab Government

3852. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the clearance of an import licence for the purchase of second VIP aircraft for Punjab Government is pending with the Central Government;

(b) if so, since when it is pending;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) by when the final clearance is likely to be accorded ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) A proposal for import of One No. Beech King Air B-200 aircraft for a cif value of 3762588 US $ for the use of VIPs, has been received from the Government of Punjab.

(c) and (d) Import could not be allowed because of foreign exchange constraints. However, the proposal will be considered in the next financial year 1993-94.